

Conference targets rural communication, access

Communication in rural Alaska and policy issues such as access to electronically stored information will be the themes of the second annual Chugach Conference Friday and Saturday.

"The conference brings together Alaska's communication leaders and gives them the opportunity to discuss the issues that concern them," said Dr. Larry Pearson, director of the conference and of the University of Alaska Anchorage's Center for Information and Technology.

The conference, sponsored by UAA, brings together leaders in Alaska's telephone, computer, broadcasting and newspaper industries with state and local officials to discuss the future of communication in Alaska.

More than a dozen speakers from the United States and Canada will lead conference sessions beginning at 9 a.m. Friday in the ground-floor meeting rooms of the Anchorage Loussac Library. UAA Chancellor

Donald Behrend will open the conference.

Among speakers are:

- A panel of Alaska Natives, with NANA Regional Corp. Vice President Sarah Scanlan as moderator. Panelists will talk about the impact of modern communications systems.

Panelists include Russell Nelson of the Rural Alaska Television Network executive council, D'Anne Ferguson Hamilton of the Alaska Public Radio Network, lobbyist Sam Kito and Octogan Co. President Mel Sather.

The conference fee is \$100, including refreshments and lunches both days and a reception sponsored by the university's new Center for Information Technology. The cost for students is \$15. Reservations may be made by calling 786-4852 by Wednesday.

Individual sessions are open to the public at no cost. Friday sessions will be in the Anchorage Assembly chamber, the Saturday session will be in the Wilda Marston Theater.